## **Selected BLS Economic Indicators**

# Charleston



#### Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent employment and unemployment, price, and earnings data for West Virginia, Charleston Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the United States. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the retail level. The Producer Price Index (PPI) measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the wholesale level and is widely used by business firms as an escalator in long-term contracts. The Employment Cost Index (ECI) measures price changes, or inflation, of labor costs which includes wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. The earnings data are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES).

Consumer Price Index (1982-84) = 100	April 2006	April 2007	Percent change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	201.5	206.686	2.6
South	194.7	199.618	2.5
South (size class B/C)*	124.1	127.000	2.3
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	197.2	202.130	2.5
South	192.1	196.730	2.4
South (size class B/C)*	122.9	125.598	2.2
Producer Price Index, U.S.	April	April	Percent
(1982 = 100)	2006	2007	change
Finished goods	160.7	165.8	3.2
All commodities	164.3	171.2	4.2
Industrial commodities	168.8	173.7	2.9

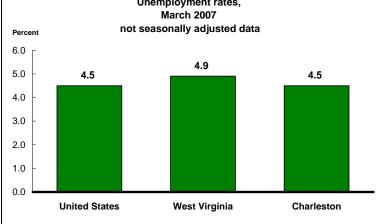
<sup>\*</sup>South cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100) Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

## Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over

(not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	March 2006	March 2007	Net change	Percent change
United States	7,255.0	6,913.0	-342.0	-4.7
West Virginia	40.4	39.7	-0.7	-1.8
Charleston	6.5	6.3	-0.2	-2.9
Most recent numbers are prelimin	nary.			

Unemployment rates,
March 2007
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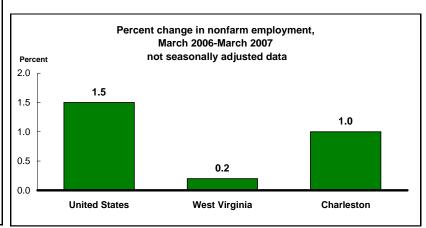
Employment Cost Index	1st Qtr.	1st Qtr.	Percent
(December 2005) = 100	2006	2007	change
Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers			
United States	100.8	104.0	3.2
South	101.0	104.3	3.3
South Atlantic	101.2	104.9	3.7
Occupational Wages	Mean Hourly Earnings		
Selected Occupations	May 2005		
Charleston			
All Occupations	\$15.57		
Education, training, and library	17.77		
Office and administrative support	12.57		
Construction and extraction	18.71		
Sales and related	12.05		
Healthcare practitioner and technical	25.06		
Food preparation and serving related	7.43		
Production	14.88		
Installation, maintenance, and repair	16.62		
Transportation and material moving	12.71		

### Nonfarm payroll employment

(not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

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Area	March 2006	March 2007	Net change	Percent change
United States	134,868.0	136,835.0	1,967.0	1.5
West Virginia	750.4	751.9	1.5	0.2
Charleston	148.6	150.1	1.5	1.0

Most recent numbers are preliminary.



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The Charleston, W. Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Lincoln, and Putnam Counties in West Virginia.